

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesy of an interview with the undersigned on June 9, 2006. As discussed at the interview independent Claims 1, 23, and 33 have been amended so that each independent claim specifies the nature of the absorbent and the pressure used. Claim 1 now contains features from Claims 7 and 9, which have been canceled. Claim 23 has been revised in the same way resulting in the cancellation of Claim 28. Claim 33 has been amended to recite a pressure feature as the claim already contained in step (ii) the nature of the absorbent. (Some minor self-evident changes have been made in Claims 35 and 43-45.) The claims before the Examiner thus are Claims 1-6, 8, 10-27 and 29-45.

The allowance of Claims 43-45 and the citation of references provided with Information Disclosure Statements are noted.

The rejection of Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Shah et al. '409 is respectfully traversed. It was pointed out during the interview that while there is mention in column 1 of Shah et al. '409 of using an absorption technique for recovery of ethylene, the reference itself is directed to a technique where materials other than ethylene are absorbed from the process and ethylene is carried through in the stream. See, for example, the discussion at column 4, lines 21-24 for an oxygen removal column 5, lines 3-7 for methane and carbon monoxide removal, column 4, lines 36-45 for acid gas removal, and column 6, lines 6 and 7 for carbon dioxide removal. It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art after a consideration of Shah et al. '409 would not be directed to the processes of Claims 1 and 2. The present invention requires separation of the olefin from the gas stream by absorption while the reference removes compounds other than the olefin by absorption. The teaching is in dramatic opposition to what is claimed here. The rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-42 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Shah et al. '409 is also respectfully traversed. The technique disclosed in the reference, as explained above, is a process entirely separate and apart from that of the instant claims and they all patentably distinguish thereover. The rejection should be withdrawn also.

The rejection of Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Hachmuth et al. '234 is also respectfully traversed. The reference does describe a technique for recovering alkenes using a multiple cooling and compression operation but as explained at the interview, the sole mention of an absorbent appears at page 5, right hand column, lines 48-51 which refers to "an absorption oil with a molecular weight of about 200." There is no other discussion in the reference about an absorbent and it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not use, or be able to use, that disclosure as a basis for the particular absorbents recited in the present claims calling for the presence of at least 10% by weight of a hydrocarbon $C_{14}H_{30}$ in the hydrocarbon mixture having a range from 10-20 carbon atoms. Moreover, the preferred temperature range disclosed in the patent is significant (see page 4, right hand column, lines 65-69) is significantly higher than the pressure recited in the instant claims. The rejection should be withdrawn as well.

Applicants lastly respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 1-42 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Shah et al. '409 in view of Hachmuth et al. '234. As established, the primary reference discloses a technique where materials other than an alkene are absorbed from streams. The person of ordinary skill in the art would have no reason to combine this teaching, which does not involve absorption of alkenes, with the teaching of Hachmuth et al. '234 which is directed to such a concept, and be led to the specific detailed operations of the claims in this case.

In view of the foregoing revisions and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in immediate condition for allowance and a USPTO paper to those ends is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if additional changes are required in the case prior to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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